



## State of Maine Board of Corrections

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Information Technology  
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and Substance Abuse  
Pharmacy  
Pre-Trial  
Technology  
Transportation  
Victim Services

April 6, 2009

Senator Stan Gerzofsky  
Representative Anne Haskell  
Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

RE: Board of Corrections' Recommendation for Additional General Funds for FY10

Dear Senator Gerzofsky, Representative Haskell, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Board of Corrections' recommendations for funding the unified corrections system. The Board, the Corrections Working Group, and the Budget Focus Group have worked diligently over the past several months to identify and refine the funding required by the General Fund to support the implementation of the unified corrections system and the ongoing operations of the county jails in FY10.

The Board is recommending a General Fund request of \$3.5 million for FY10.

The counties originally submitted a request of \$7.0 million in new money for FY10. The Board has reduced this request to \$3.5 million as follows:

1. Major mission change in four county jails. Although every correctional facility's mission will be reviewed and modified, the Board is recommending a major mission change for four county jails effective July 1, 2009. We are recommending three jails become short term holding facilities (Franklin, Oxford, and Piscataquis) and one jail become a short term holding and reentry facility (Waldo). We anticipate that reductions associated with these major mission changes will amount to nearly \$2.2 million.
2. The Board then directed the Budget Focus Group to meet with county officials from the remaining 11 jails to undertake a "scrubbing" of their budget submissions. The Budget Subcommittee has completed this process with 6 jails and has identified an additional \$1.0 million in reductions.

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3. The Budget Focus Group will continue to meet with the remaining 5 jails over the next few days to "scrub" their budget submissions. We are committed to finding an additional \$276,500 in reductions from these 5 jails to reach a total of \$3.5 million in reductions from the original submission of \$7.0 million. If we are unable to reach the total of \$3.5 million in reductions, we will not increase our FY10 request above \$3.5 million.

Based on these actions, the Board is recommending \$3.5 million in additional General Funds in FY10. This is a significant reduction from the initial budget requests of \$7 million over the property tax capped contribution. A summary chart of county budget review and revision is attached.

We are not ready to recommend a funding request for FY11. We will continue to implement mission changes and systems efficiencies in the next 15 months which may affect future funding needs.

I appreciated the opportunity to appear before the committee last week. The Board of Corrections has achieved considerable progress in the design and implementation of the unified corrections system envisioned by the Governor and the Legislature. We remain committed to this enterprise and are ready to continue this work with your support.

Sincerely,



Neale A. Duffett  
Chairman of the Board of Corrections

NAD/keb

Enclosure